

Attorney Docket No.: 01CON357P

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 2 and 34 have been amended, and new claims 52-63 have been added. After the present amendment, claims 2-9, 34-41, and 52-63 are pending in the application. An early allowance of claims 2-9, 34-41, and 52-63 in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the title, asserting that it is not descriptive. The Examiner has objected to the written description, asserting that it contains informalities. Applicants have amended the title and the written description. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the title and specification be withdrawn.

B. Rejections of Claims 2-9 and 34-41 under 35 USC §102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-9 and 34-41 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,691,084 B2 to Manjunath, et al. ("Manjunath"). For the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention, as defined by amended independent claims 2 and 34, is patentably distinguishable over Manjunath.

Various embodiments according to the present invention relate to a fixed rate speech compression system and methodology that improves the quality of encoding and decoding by focusing on the perceptually important characteristics of speech. The system analyzes features of an input speech signal and performs a common frame based speech coding based on either a first speech coding mode or a second speech coding mode. The selection of a mode is based on at least one feature of the input speech signal. As disclosed in the present application, the first

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speech coding mode uses a two-dimensional vector quantization gain codebook and a two-dimensional code-vector.

Accordingly, amended independent claims 2 and 34 recite "wherein the first speech coding mode uses a two-dimensional vector quantization gain codebook and a two-dimensional code-vector."

In contrast to the present invention as defined by amended independent claims 2 and 34, Manjunath is directed to multiple mode variable rate speech encoding. The Examiner asserts that Manjunath teaches, at column 1, lines 5-10, a fixed rate speech compression system for processing a frame of a speech signal. However, this portion of Manjunath simply recites "The present invention relates to the coding of speech signals. Specifically, the present invention relates to classifying speech signals and employing one of a plurality of coding modes based on the classification."

Manjunath does show, in Figure 2, multiple encoder and decoder modes. Figure 2 of Manjunath also shows an initial parameter calculation module coupled to a classification module. However, Manjunath does not disclose, teach, or suggest a fixed rate speech compression system including selecting one of a first speech coding mode and a second speech coding mode to encode a second part of a frame, wherein the first speech coding mode uses a two-dimensional vector quantization gain codebook and a two-dimensional code-vector.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as defined by amended independent claims 2 and 34 is not taught, disclosed, or suggested by the art of record. Thus, amended independent claims 2 and 34 are patentably distinguishable over the art of record. As such, the claims depending from amended independent claims 2 and 34 are a

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fortiori, also patentable for at least the reasons presented above and also for additional limitations contained in each dependent claim.

C. New Claims 52-63

By the present amendment, Applicants have added new dependent claims 52-63, which are patentable for at least the reasons presented above and also for additional limitations contained in each dependent claim. Support for claims 52-63 appears in the present application on page 5, for example.

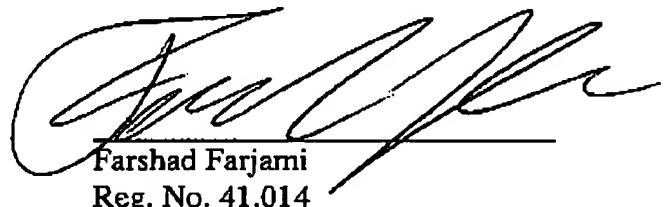
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D. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing reasons, an early notice of allowance for claims 2-9, 34-41, and 52-63 remaining in the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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